

Message Text

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ACTION SY-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8216

CONFIDENTIAL MONTEVIDEO 465

E.O./. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: FULLY ARMORED CARS

REF: (A) STATE 004686 (B) STATE 027097 (C) MVD 441

1. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING GENERAL WEIGHT AND BALANCE, SHOCK ABSORBERS, SPRINGS, AND OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH AFFECT THE MANEUVERABILITY, STABILIOJ AND OVERALL CONDITION OF THE SY 69 FORD GALAXY AND SY 71 PLYMOUTH FURY HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY RSO SINCE REFTEL (C) SENT. THESE PROBLEMS WHEN COMBINED WITH THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF. C REQUIRE RE STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF BOTH VEHICLES.

2. ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED PROBLEMS WITH THE GALAXY'S FRONT END AND GENERAL SUSPENSION WHICH MAKE THE CAR EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO CONTROL ON WET ROADS AND UNSTABLE ON CURVES IN ANY ROAD CONDITION. THIS DANGEROUS CONDITION SEEMS TO BE INHERENT IN THE VEHICLE AND CANNOT BE CORRECTED. THIS CAR IS FIVE YEARS OLD

AND IS SHOWING THE EFFECTS OF URUGUAY'S POOR ROADS, ITS HIGH MILEAGE AND OVERWEIGHT, AND SEVERAL ACCIDENTS IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN INVOLVED; FURY ALSO HAS HAD A NUMBER OF HIGH IMPACT ACCIDENTS. BOTH VEHICLES ARE FULL OF SQUEAKS AND RATTLES WHICH ONLY COMPLEYJIRAZVMUFACTURE COULD OVERCOME. IT IS ALSO IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN PARTS LOCALLY FOR EITHER THE GALAXY OR FURY AND THE POST HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THAT SY WASHINGTON EXPERIENCES DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING PARTS FOR THESE CARS. BOTH HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN OUT OF SERVICE FOR WEEKS AND EVEN MONTHS AT A TIME.

3. THE GALAXY, ONE OF THE FIRST ARMORED CARS SUPPLIED POSTS,
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IS ALSO VERY CONSPICIOUS AND ITS EXTREMELY THICK WINDOWS

FREQUENTLY FALL DUE TO THEIR OVERWEIGHT.

4. AS A RESULT OF THESE FACTS THESE CARS MUST BE
DESCRIBED AS BEING IN POOR CONDITION AND CURRENTLY UNFIT
AS SECURITY VEHICLES. THEIR REPLACEMENT IS URGENT.

5. THIS REPORT REPLACES MVD 441 WHICH SHOULD BE IGNORED
AS TO ITS ASSESSMENT OF CONDITION AND LONGEVITY OF VEHICLES.

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